**Minutes of the PAG meeting held at St Johns College on Monday 2 July 2012 at 2:00pm**

**Present:** Jonny, Macca and Conor

**Agenda:**

1. Article in North and South
2. St John’s Open Day
3. Any other ideas
4. **Article in North and South**

The article highlighted the four most popular attributes parents considered when choosing a school:

* Academic results
* Student behaviour (student safety)
* Reputation and status
* Curriculum choices.

The least popular attributes were:

* Religious affiliation
* Networking potential for the child’s future.
* Emphasis on sports or arts
* Multicultural elements and
* Whether either parent had attended the school.

Agreed that our academic results are good, but we need to make sure people, including our students, know about them. Students perceive other schools, especially Lindisfarne and Napier Boys, do better than us academically. From the North and South article, it was noted that when looking at school results, parents should consider the following:

* Numbers of Merits and Excellences. By doing this, parents are able to negate the effect of schools choosing lots of unit standards bolster credits needed to pass NCEA papers.
* The variance between internal and external assessment results. This indicates whether teachers are fudging or marking too easily when it comes to internals.
* Student participation rates. Low participation rates indicate students being withdrawn from standards so as not to affect the school’s statistics.

We agreed that it was therefore important that we published such results, explaining why we were doing this. Good to compare such results with other schools in the HB.

Our external results are excellent, we are performing better than many girls schools, there is low variance between our internal and external results and our participation rates are good.

***Perception is reality for parents*** so it is important we address our reputation and status. Incidences like the one involving Soul Sua do our reputation great harm, especially when people find out that he was not expelled for such behaviour. It was suggested that Neal could organise an article in the local paper addressing this misperception, highlighting our successes with difficult students and noting that our role is to produce good men which aligns with our Marist philosophy.

When we looked at schools with good reputations, we identified Lindisfarne, Napier Girls and Napier Boys as schools which were perceived as excellent schools. The reason this was so was (a) good promotion (which we are addressing at St Johns through this group) and (b) strong student discipline. On this latter issue, we felt that it was important for us at St Johns to review our expectations of student behaviour to ensure they were high and backed up by the necessary systems and consequences. We also felt that it would be a good idea in term 4 to perhaps visit some schools with good reputations, especially a school like Dilworth which deals with underprivileged students, to see how they do things.

1. **St Johns Open Day.**

Details of this are on the Wiki.

1. **Any other ideas**

Consider whether we should change the time and day for the St John’s open day from Sunday, 2:00 pm to a weekday from 5 to 7 pm.

Aspects of widening the curriculum to be considered at the teacher only day in term 3. This will be looking at whether the school could use distance learning and video conferencing to do this.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:20 pm.